

# THE INDEPENDENT

VOL. XIII. NO. 660.

Published Every Friday by W. O. Saunders at  
505 E. Fearing St., Elizabeth City, N. C.

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1920

Entered as Second Class Matter, at the Post-office  
at Elizabeth City, N. C., June 9, 1908

\$2.00 A YEAR

## KRAMERS TO PRODUCE READY BUILT HOMES

Elizabeth City Now Has Largest Mill Work Plant  
in Northeastern North Carolina—Soon to  
Be in Full Operation

Elizabeth City is soon to have in operation the biggest lumber and mill-work plant in Northeastern North Carolina. That plant will be the new mill of the Kramer Brothers Co. now being erected at the intersection of Pine Street and Pennsylvania Avenue and facing on Knobbs Creek. It has a frontage of over 400 feet on Pennsylvania Avenue, 700 feet on Knobbs Creek, and 700 feet on Pine Street and will utilize a site of a little over five acres.

This site was secured last January from the Richmond Cedar Works which formerly carried on the extensive manufacture of shingles there; but closed down about three years ago when the manufacture of cedar shingles assumed unprofitable stages. Kramer Bros. Co. had long been looking around for a satisfactory site upon which to extend their business and were quick to take an option on it. They found they could utilize some of the old buildings and the deal was closed at once, involving a consideration of about \$20,000.

The completed plant with its seven large buildings and modern machinery, will be the best equipped, and will have the greatest capacity of any similar plant in this section. It will have on the south side an immense lumber shed 61 by 102 feet in which upwards of 4,000,000 feet of lumber can be stored. This shed will have ample driveways on each side and will be used mostly for the storage of finished work and window frames and similar millwork. There is also a larger shed for the storage of ceiling and other dressed lumber, 61 feet wide by 100 feet long which will hold practically a half million feet of lumber. These storage buildings are protected by over 500 feet of fire wall in two sections. The fire wall is 13 inches thick by 18 feet high and is made of brick and concrete and costs about \$7,000.

The planing mill located to the north of this wall is 74 feet wide by 110 feet long and will be thoroughly equipped to turn out anything needed in woodwork for home building. It is equipped with 75 horse power steam engine which will drive two, four-side planing machines, one surfacer, two gang rip-saws, one single rip-saw one band saw and two moulders. Steam for driving this and other machinery will be furnished by two 125 horse power boilers. This part of the plant costs about \$16,000.

The next most important part of the mill is the millwork plant occupying a building 83 by 108 feet in which will be installed all necessary machinery for that work such as sash-stickers, mortising, dovetailing, sanding, re-lining and planing machines, and cut off saws. This machinery will be driven by a 75 horse power high speed Atlas steam engine, all of which cost about \$6,000.

These two finishing plants will take care of the rough lumber after it has been brought from the lumber shed which has a frontage on Knobbs Creek of 200 feet and a depth of 52 feet. It will hold about 600,000 ft. of lumber, and is convenient to both railroad spur and creek so that lumber can be readily unloaded from either barges and rafts, or cars and stored inside the shed with small facility.

Besides these buildings a warehouse has been erected 107 feet long by 48 feet deep which will be used as a paint, distillate room and glazing room. This is adjacent to the business office which was formerly the Richmond Cedar Works office, which is about 20 by 32 feet in size.

This plant will be supplied with by-products from the street water line. It has 1,400 feet of railway sidings and frontage on Knobbs Creek which has a depth of 15 feet and will accommodate any vessels plying in this section. These features and its adjacency to the steamboat depots make it the most conveniently located mill in Elizabeth City.

What is now Kramer Bros. Co. has been identified with the growth of Elizabeth City for nearly half a century. It has a small beginning in a little mill taken over by D. S. Kramer who came to Elizabeth City in 1872 from Pennsylvania, to engage in a general contracting and building business here. This little mill was located where the Norfolk Southern freight station now stands and was worked only two or three days a week, when Mr. Kramer would take his workmen and run the mill long enough to get out the necessary materials for his building business. In 1888 the business had increased and the mill was moved to Martin Street where after six years two sons, C. E. Kramer and J. A. Kramer were taken over the business and the firm was named D. S. Kramer & Son. Later a third son, A. K. Kramer was taken in and the business went under the name of Kramer Bros., until 1891 when a fourth son, J. F. Kramer and R. O. Prevor, an uncle, became partners in the business which was re-styled for the third time under the name of Kramer Brothers. About two years ago this firm occupied it.

## HYDE COUNTY GETS RAILROAD

Some of Hyde Gets a Big Help  
Toward Promoting Its Farm  
Possibilities

Over in Hyde County they are doing things on a big scale. The North Carolina Farms Co. which recently re-claimed 40,000 acres of land from the bed of Mattamuskeet lake is building a railroad 36 miles long, which together with other related projects will cost a million and a half dollars. The building of this railroad is one of the biggest engineering tasks ever undertaken in North Carolina. It employs the labor of over 900 men and utilizes dozens of dredges, scrapers and drags.

This road starts at Wena in Washington County and skirting Pungo Lake, stretches its length thru a trackless and unbroken swamp to New Holland in the basin of what once consisted of Mattamuskeet Lake. Today, Mattamuskeet Lake bed is covered with corn. Corn as far as the eye can see and more corn, sprouted without a touch of commercial fertilizer from a soil that has absorbed the silt of the lake for ages, sending the stalks upward in an inconceivable denseness to a height of 12 to fifteen feet.

The railroad was the eventual result of the insistent demand for transportation facilities to take out the ever increasing production of Hyde County and to bring in the ever needed supplies which the farm lands needed. There is the greatest pumping station in the world which sucked a million gallons a minute from the lake bed so that the soil is sufficiently arid to produce good corn. That station with its giant engines developing more than 3,000 horsepower needs coal and coal enough could never come without a railroad.

So in August—the North Carolina Farms Co. which is backed by the Dillings Company, big bankers of Columbus and Cincinnati, Ohio, took hold of the situation and began the project. Since then the Foundation Company of New York, the contracting builders have succeeded in cutting a roadway thru this wilderness, ditched up a road bed and are laying track with a rapidity calculated to complete the road enough that trains may go over it by January 1. Connections will be made with the Norfolk Southern Railroad at Wena which will allow produce to go ahead as fast as that shipped from other sections and while this road will not conveniently serve all of Hyde, since some of the important farming centers are 20 miles or more away. It will probably be the most important factor ever promoted to develop the agricultural possibilities of that county.

Plans are already underway to erect at Wena a village of 15 homes for executives of the North Carolina Farms Co. These buildings will be of the latest type and thoroughly modernized in every particular with running water, sewerage and electric lights. The estimated cost of the village and railroad will be about \$1,500,000.

## CHORAL SOCIETY WILL GIVE CONCERT TO-NIGHT

"The Holy City" will be sung by the Elizabeth City Choral Society this evening at the high school auditorium, beginning promptly at 8 o'clock.

Tickets are on sale at Selig's for one dollar, or an associate member's card may be secured for one dollar, entitling the holder to two tickets.

The Begar Orchestra of Portsmouth will accompany the oratorio and a special soloist, K. L. Hulseick, of unusual caliber. These are features of unusual interest in addition to the fact that the best talent of the city, under the very capable direction of F. R. Huffy, with Miss Ada Lester Burfoot, pianist, make up the personnel of the oratorio.

changed its name to Kramer Bros. Co. under the management of a third generation of Kramers. Two grandsons of D. S. Kramer, J. Howard Kramer and Frank Kramer, president and secretary, respectively, are now most actively concerned in the management of the firm.

After getting into its new quarters on or about January first, 1921 Kramer Bros. Co. intends to begin the manufacture of ready-made homes, so that people miles away can order cut to fit materials from a catalog and erect homes without the aid of carpenters. This will be a new industry in North Carolina and the biggest industrial step ever undertaken in this city.

The present mill site and buildings which front 400 feet on Martin Street and about 55 feet on Pindexter Street will be sold. The two story office building which is about 200 feet long is an ideal location for a new business and is being noised about sometime ago that a plan under the name of Kramer Brothers mill project had been launched.

## A SWORN STATEMENT

Personally appeared before me, a Notary Public in and for Elizabeth City, N. C., Columbia Saunders who being duly sworn says that the following is a true statement of the circulation receipts of THE INDEPENDENT, published at 505, E. Fearing St., Elizabeth City, N. C. for the month beginning Oct. 15, 1920 and ending Nov. 15, 1920:

Renewal subscriptions.....206  
New subscriptions.....85  
Total number of subscriptions.....291  
Net cash receipts from subscriptions for same period \$414.00  
COLUMBIA SAUNDERS  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16th day of November, 1920.  
M. B. CULPEPPER  
(SEAL) Notary Public

The Elizabeth City Merchants Association or any advertiser is invited to investigate the above statement. THE INDEPENDENT keeps its records straight and its circulation list is an open book to all advertisers.

## THAT BOILER COST \$10,000

Power Plant's Delay Cost Small  
Fortune. Other Folks  
Lost Money Too

The Electric Light & Power Company of Elizabeth City is putting on a new boiler but it is going to cost it something when it gets through with it. This boiler should have been put in last spring but wasn't. It is reported that the delay has cost that company the tidy little sum of \$10,000 more than it should have cost them. For many weeks the people of Elizabeth City have groaned and cursed on arising to find no current on in their homes. Small manufacturing plants have been forced to lose time and the newspapers could not be kept up to standard. Ninety per cent of the mechanical work of a newspaper is done by machinery and that machinery is dependent upon electricity for motive power.

But this new boiler which has been coming so long, finally got here about two weeks ago and it is being installed as rapidly as a public service company does things. Men came from Baltimore to do the work and the greater part of the boiler is already in place. In a few weeks the people of Elizabeth City ought to be getting enough current for once, at any rate.

## A FORLORN WIFE AND RUINED GIRL

A Dismal Chapter in Misguided Lives  
of Three Who Might Have Done  
Better

Boarding in the home of a 15 year old girl the while his wife was working to support his three young children, is the charge made against E. B. Pugh of Old Trap who was arrested here this week on a warrant sworn out in Farmville, Pitt county where Pugh had been working as a carpenter. Pugh is about 30 years old and was married in June 24, 1905 to a 15 year old girl at Old Trap and three children aged 11, nine and seven years have come of this marriage. He has been separated from his wife for sometime and was working on a building project as carpenter, at Farmville where he met a 15 year old girl who was carried away with the stranger like young girls usually are with strangers, fell in love with him and later when folks suspected something was amiss, fled with Pugh to South Carolina, it is alleged. Pugh left the girl in South Carolina, came back to Camden county and entered a plea for dissolution of matrimony from his wife charging her with adultery with unnamed persons. Meantime the little girl who fled with him from Farmville could not be located nor could any trace of her whereabouts be picked up and a warrant was sworn out for the apprehension of Pugh and he was found in Elizabeth City looking after his divorce suit which had been removed here and was to have been tried this week, but his wife had entered a counter plea and the case could not come off. Mrs. Lulu Pugh denies any infraction of the duty of a true and loyal wife and claims that her husband severely mistreated her and loafed around stores the while she was forced to take in sewing for the support of the family and that she has to fetch wood and undergo numberless hardships while her child was in its infancy. Mrs. Pugh resides at 251 W. York St. in Norfolk to which town she went after leaving her husband.

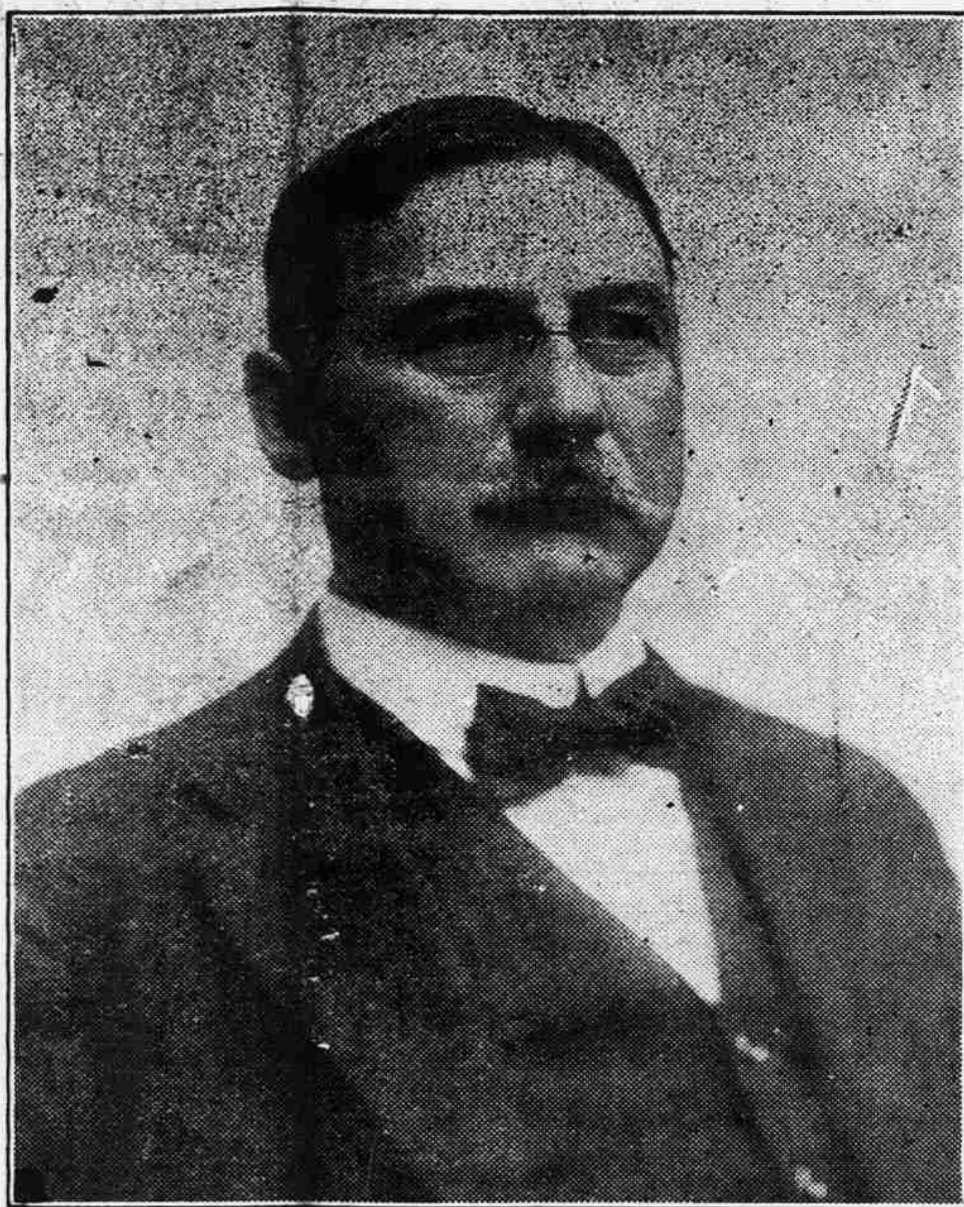
Pugh was required to give bond on the sum of \$1,000 pending trial for felonious seduction of the 15 year old girl, and violation of the "white slave" law. He comes of a good family of Camden where his father is a well known merchant of Old Trap.

FINED \$10 FOR THREAT  
Tom Albertson, living out Okisko way on the Desert Road was fined \$10 and costs in police court here Tuesday morning for threatening James White, a colored farm hand who worked for Albertson. It developed that there was dispute over some money due White and Albertson wouldn't pay. The argument came to words and Albertson threatened using a gun.

Jack Wells, printer of a Republican paper here was fined \$10 and costs in the Recorder's Court Monday morning for using disorderly and abusive language on the street on the night of October 28. Wells noted an appeal.

BIG REDUCTION  
C. A. Cooke has reduced his entire line of Men's and Boy's Suits and Overcoats, 25 per cent or One Fourth off, from the original prices. See advertisement on editorial page.

## In Many Ways a Leading Citizen



DR. LEMUEL SHOWELL BLADES

FIRST CITIZENSHIP, the monthly bulletin of the First & Citizens National Bank of this city, contains from time to time interesting biographical sketches of men who are identified with this bank and who have helped to make Elizabeth City what it is. The current issue of First Citizenship carries an excellent portrait of Dr. L. S. Blades and a sketch of his career that should prove interesting to the readers of this newspaper.

In considering the men who have contributed most materially to the up-building of Elizabeth City as it is to-day, with flourishing industries, prosperous business concerns, modern civic facilities, educational institutions, religious opportunities and a refined, intellectual, cultured social life, a correct history will give great credit to Dr. Lemuel Showell Blades. For a quarter of a century Dr. Blades has been prominently identified with leading interests here.

Lemuel Showell Blades was born at Bishopville, Maryland, September 9, 1866. His parents were Peter C. and Nancy E. Blades. His father was a sea captain, merchant and farmer, and the family was one of substance and importance.

From careful home and educational training the youth entered St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland, and from that historic institution was graduated in June 1888, with the degree of B. S. He then pursued his medical studies in the University of Maryland, from which he was graduated with the degree of M. D. in June, 1891. After practicing medicine at Berlin, Maryland, for 1½ years, he entered upon a post-graduate course at his alma mater, in preparation for service as naval surgeon, having awakened ambition in this direction and choice of sea service possibly being an inherited echo from a sea-going father. While busy with his post-graduate studies, Dr. Blades acquired an interest in lumber manufacturing in North Carolina, which subsequently developed into large connections. In March, 1893, he located at Elizabeth City, where he has ever since maintained his home, and from then until 1900 was mainly engaged in the lumber business, having discontinued the practice of medicine.

In 1900 Dr. Blades sold his lumber interests and accepted the presidency of the Norfolk & Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company of North Carolina, which is but one of the important business enterprises of which he is either the official head or one of the alert and foresighted directors. He is president of the Norfolk & Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company; president of Spence & Hollowell Co., Elizabeth City; vice-president of the First & Citizens National Bank of Elizabeth City; director of the First & Citizens National Bank; the Dixie Fire Insurance Company of Greensboro, N. C., and the Savings Bank & Trust Company of Elizabeth City.

Dr. Blades was married at Elizabeth City, September 18, 1895, to Miss Grace Melick, a daughter of the late Rev. P. W. Melick, and they have four boys, all young men now in college or entering business, and they appear to be following the commercial trend of their successful father. Charles Camden Blades is now identified with Spence & Hollowell Co., of this city as vice-president and one of the managing heads of the firm.

## APPEAL MADE TO AID ORPHANS OF THE STATE

Contributions of One Day's Work Will  
Be Requested to Aid Fatherless

The publicity committee of the North Carolina Orphan Association has issued its appeal to the people of the State to contribute during the coming Thanksgiving season something to the support and maintenance of the orphans of the State.

The "One Day for the Orphans" movement was inaugurated several years ago and it has been a wonderfully successful means of bringing to the attention of the citizens of the State the duty they owe the wards of society. The object of the movement is not particularly to care for the orphans who are already in the various institutions in North Carolina, but to make it possible for these institutions to reach out and take in the thousands who cannot be accommodated.

This request for one day's work is not a large one. Rich and poor can participate in it without inconvenience. It is a worthy cause and a little self-denial will bring joy to many a lonely heart. It is requested that offerings be made on Thanksgiving and it is an appropriate occasion. No better time could be selected for one to give a real expression of thanks. Offerings should be sent thru one's church or lodge. The Pythians of Elizabeth City Lodge No. 122, have appointed Matt Baker to solicit and receive offerings, and he will see members of the lodge and others as well.

## PRINTER FINED FOR DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Jack Wells, printer of a Republican paper here was fined \$10 and costs in the Recorder's Court Monday morning for using disorderly and abusive language on the street on the night of October 28. Wells noted an appeal.

BIG REDUCTION  
C. A. Cooke has reduced his entire line of Men's and Boy's Suits and Overcoats, 25 per cent or One Fourth off, from the original prices. See advertisement on editorial page.

## ELIZABETH CITY BEATS ROCKY MT. AT FOOTBALL

Local Team Had a Hard Time But Did  
It With a Score of 27 to 25 in  
Its Favor

In a close game Friday between the football teams of the High schools of Rocky Mount and Elizabeth City, the home team came out winner with a score of 27 to 25 in its favor. It was hard work for Rocky Mount is considered one of the best high school teams in the state. Elizabeth City seemed a little agitated at the beginning but regained its nerve when the game was half over. The score then stood 19 to 7 in favor of Rocky Mount.

Rocky Mount had one of the best players seen here this season, but Elizabeth City far outplayed Rocky Mount both on offensive and defensive. All of its plays were made in practically the last half of the game while Rocky Mount team did very little.

By whipping Rocky Mount, Elizabeth City has earned the right to play Red Oaks team tomorrow. If the home team whips Red Oaks tomorrow, the home gridiron will be entitled to a real championship game.

## Hathaway Says

If you wear glasses, have your eyes and glasses both examined from time to time, and go to the place where you can afford to pay a reasonable price for real professional work. Remember your eyes are your bread-winners. Take care of them.

You have your teeth examined twice a year. Why not your eyes? They are more important.

Dr. J. D. Hathaway  
Optometrist  
Phone 999 Bradford Bldg.

## LARGEST SAW MILL HERE SHUTS DOWN THIS WEEK

Foreman-Blades Mill on Knobbs Creek Couldn't  
Get Enough Logs to Keep Its Reduced Crew  
Busy and Had to Stop Running

## MR. SMALL SAYS IT DOESN'T PAY

New York World Says He Told  
Buffalo Audience That Is  
Why He Quit Congress

Congressman John H. Small has retired from Congress because there isn't enough money in the job, according to the Buffalo correspondent of the New York World. This will be news to many people here in northeastern North Carolina. Under date of Nov. 11, 1920 the New York World printed the following correspondence from Buffalo:

(Special to The World.)  
Buffalo, N. Y., Nov. 11, 1920—"The salary of Congressman Small is too small to attract men of ability unless they are in business and can afford to be away from their work," declared Representative J. H. Small of North Carolina in an address before the Rotary Club here to-day.

"I am retiring from Congress next year after twenty-two years of service for the simple reason that I cannot afford to continue on the job," he said.

"I've got to get out and earn something. I know of half a dozen members retiring for the same reason. The type of men now going to Congress cannot earn \$7,500 a year at home. There is a report that salaries may be raised to \$10,000, and I hope it goes through, for, Lord knows, the boys in Washington need it."

Friends of Mr. Small here in Elizabeth City say they do not believe that Mr. Small has been correctly quoted by The World and are awaiting some word of correction or explanation from Mr. Small.

## ATTEND CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA THIS WEEK

Elizabeth City Represented At National  
Conference on Negro Education

Eastern North Carolina will be represented at the national conference on industrial education for the Negro to be held in Atlanta, Ga. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 19 and 20. The white race is represented at this conference by W. O. Saunders, editor and publisher of this newspaper and president of the Board of Managers of the State Normal School at this city. The colored people will be represented by Dr. P. W. Moore, principal of the State Normal, also of this city.

The Atlanta conference, national in scope, has been called by U. S. Commissioner of Education Dr. P. P. Claxton. Leading educators of both races will attend the conference which is to be held in the Senate Chamber of the Georgia State Capitol. The purpose of the conference is to draw light upon the Negro educational problem. Are the Negroes getting too much academic education and too little vocational training? If vocational education is stressed, will it impair the work of teacher training? How much education and what sort of education is most helpful to the Negro anyway? These are some of the questions upon which the best educational authorities in the country are still at loggerheads. Commissioner Claxton believes that much helpful information and a better understanding of the Negro educational problem will come out of the conference in Atlanta this week. That Elizabeth City will be represented at this conference is peculiarly gratifying because one of North Carolina's most important training schools for colored teachers is located at Elizabeth City and the state will spend thousands of dollars in new buildings and equipment for this school at an early date.

Mrs. W. O. Saunders entertained at a linen shower, Wednesday evening from 8 to 10 o'clock in compliment to Miss Lola Garnett Ballance, whose marriage to Mr. Casper Scott Lamb of Belvidere, N. C. will take place at City Road M. E. Church on Wednesday, Nov. 24 at 9 P. M.

## BOX SUPPER AT HARBINGER

There will be an oyster and box supper given at Harbinger schoolhouse, Harbinger, N. C., Saturday evening November 17, 1920, by the Christian Women's Missionary Society.

## INFORMANT IN HOT WATER

It has leaked out in the younger set that the party who has given the ministers of the city so much information about immorality in the town is a young married man who is something of a rounder himself and has figured in several whispered scandals. And now some of the young fellows who insist that things are not as bad as painted are making it hot for the chap who has been telling the ministers things and are threatening to tell his wife a few things in reprisal.

The Foreman-Blades saw mill on Knobbs Creek and the biggest mill in recent operation in Elizabeth City, employing upwards of 100 laborers when running full time, and turning out 80,000 feet of lumber a day, shut down Thursday of this week, and tied up a weekly payroll of thousands of dollars. This sawmill had been running with a reduced force for some time, having with the dropping demand for lumber made decreases of 25 to 50 cents a day in the wages of its employees, and thinned out as many as it could well do without.

The Foreman-Blades mill was idle all day yesterday with not a wheel turning thruout the plant; its engines cold and with no smoke pouring from its great stacks and no darkies singing around the yard, it presented a lonesome spectacle to all except the sparrows hopping around thru the machinery. There was hardly a dozen men including foreman and saw filers who had anything to do.

This plant, since the shutdown of the Dare Lumber Company's mill sometime ago has worked probably the largest force worked by any saw mill in Elizabeth City. When lumber was greatly demanded some months ago it worked around a hundred men at the sawmill. Besides these it employed several hundred men in its various logging operations in the forests of eastern North Carolina, and kept in operation between these forests and the mill, two tugboats and a fleet of barges. This same company operates a planing mill on the Pasquotank river near Pennsylvania Avenue which has a capacity of 60,000 feet of dressed lumber a day and employs about 30 hands. This planing mill has been making cuts in its force from time to time recently, and also making cuts in wages in order to keep as many men working as possible. It formerly worked about 60 men, paying from \$3 to \$4 a day, but now the force is only about half of this number, receiving \$2.25 to \$2.75 a day. The planing mill gets a great part of its unfinished lumber from the sawmill of the same company.

While this shutdown comes as a great surprise to the people of this section, it is not unusual in view of the total shutdown of thousands of mills thruout the country. It is known that the Foreman-Blades mill has neither been working full time nor full force steadily for several days. It is also apparent that lumber is steadily decreasing in demand thruout the country in anticipation of lower wages, and many building operations have been curtailed or suspended to such an end. The general impression among employees of this mill is that things will pick up in a few days and that the mill will probably be doing something next week. On account of stormy weather, the company's tugboats have been unable to put out in the sound and tow logs to the mills and for that reason the mills haven't enough logs on hand to keep everything going full blast. Besides, the recent removals of several barges from service in order to make repairs, has lessened the number available for taking logs to Elizabeth City.

## HERTFORD FAIR HAD MANY FINE EXHIBITS

The fair held at Hertford on Armistice Day was a very successful occasion as far as exhibits and speakers could go to make it such. Besides it had a wide selection of popular, and patriotic music furnished by the Norfolk Navy Yard Band.

Among the speakers were members of the faculty of the University of North Carolina. The addresses made were along present day lines and dealt with the chief problems of the times. The exhibits were among the most creditable that have been shown in this section and did no small amount of credit to the farmers and housewives of Perquimans. There were many interesting displays of juvenile art as well as historical curios in the way of needle work and the like which had been heirlooms in the families of Perquimans for generations. While agricultural exhibits were few, they were exceptional ones and the livestock and poultry represented thoroughbreds of their kind.

The one noticeable thing about it as an Armistice Day celebration, was the absence of uniformed ex-soldiers. The returned soldier boys didn't seem to be so anxious to parade about in clothes that earned them so much rapid glory.

TURK KNOWS  
Turk Morrisette's idea of a smart girl is one who can make her complexion taste as good as it looks.